

favor of single-member districts, the vote might be somewhat different with the House expanded to 120.

To clarify this, each delegate would be roughly 15 per cent smaller under the 120-member house as opposed to the 105-member house. If you can measure it this way, this creates 15 per cent more parochialism and more representation of individual interests.

I suggest that this is an argument against the Committee's report.

In closing, I would like to read a paragraph from page 129 of the final report of the Constitutional Convention Commission, in its comment to Section 304, as recommended, where it says:

"It might be desirable to establish a separate district for each delegate, but this has not proven to be feasible. However, it might be practicable for the General Assembly to provide for single-member districts in the future, and this possibility should not be precluded."

I agree one hundred per cent with that statement and submit that both the Rybczynski and the Case-Lord amendments would accomplish that possibility, and would allow the General Assembly to divide the state easily at some future date into single-member districts.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Gallagher?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: One last word from me, Mr. Chairman.

Assuming a 40-member Senate, and a 120-member House for 1970, there would be 100,000 persons in each senate district, and 33,000 persons in each house district. Assuming the same thing for 1980, a 40-member Senate would have 117,000 persons per senate district, and 39,000 persons per delegate district.

I might point out that a 33,000 population house district is roughly twice the size of Kent County.

Now, in order to rally the forces to preserve the Committee stand, may I suggest that those who are in favor of single-member senate districts and single-member house districts vote no now and hereafter until the Chairman of the Committee indicates differently.

(Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment to the amendment?

Delegate Sherbow?

DELEGATE SHERBOW: Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee of the Whole. I favored originally the Lord-Case proposal. Apparently the sponsor now moves toward the Rybczynski proposal. I am for that in preference to the single-member district. Let me tell you why.

I may not be in the same position as my good brother who sits on my left, Delegate Sickles, because the last time I had practical experience in ward precinct and district politics was more than 27 years ago. However, statistics just given you by Delegate Gallagher should speak volumes for the kind of insulated, separate, parochialism that will come in Baltimore City.

I do not presume to speak for any other area. I just wish that you would allow us to have our delegates run from districts larger than 33,000. This is why; if 33,000 people are in one district, that is a small district to us because we have concentrated population. About two and a half to one is the ratio of voters, so that is just about 14,000 voters who will be on the box in that one single district.

This is one fact of life that may not exist in Prince George's County, Brother Sickles, but it exists in Baltimore City.

The election is won in the primary and in the primary fewer than 50 per cent in Baltimore City go to the polls. I would say at most 40 per cent, and in most elections 30 per cent. Make it the best figure you want, of the 15,000 who are eligible to vote, six or seven thousand of them do vote. If you have a single-member district, you are going to find five or six thousand people are going to make the decision, and when that one individual gets in from that district, there he will be speaking on the great problems of the state — air pollution, water pollution, economic development, mass transportation, regional development. Can you imagine it? Oh, no. His interest is going to be staying elected from this one little square box of his own in that small district.

All I am asking you is that in Baltimore City, you give us a broader base from which to pick the men and the women who will represent, not the small district, but the entire state, with a viewpoint that is statewide and not narrow.